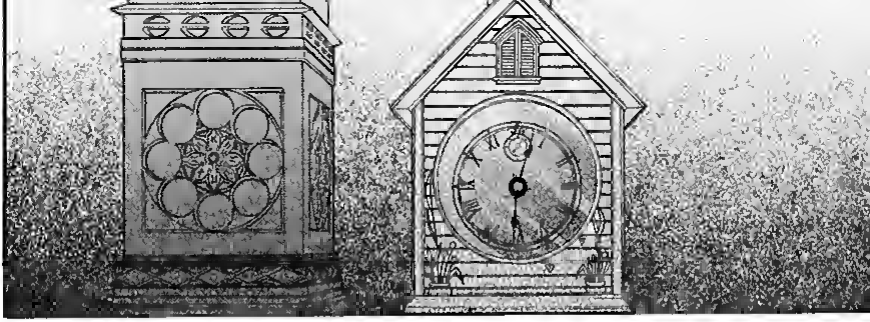
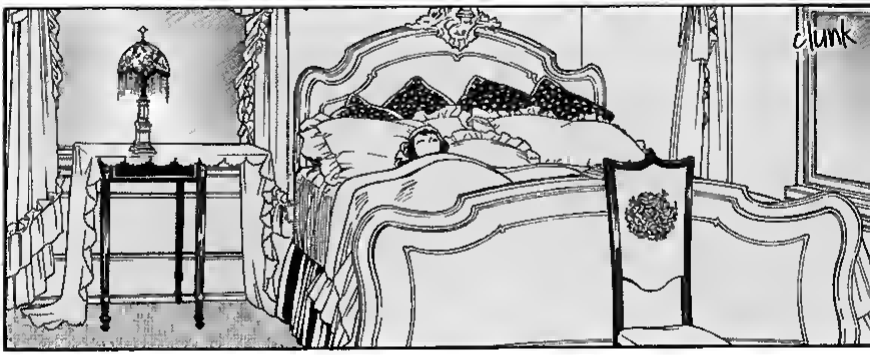
Translation:
13bells

Edits:
Unrequited

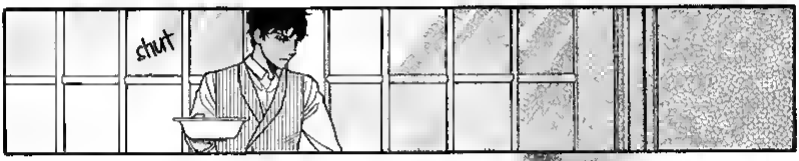
Chapter 23




clunk

clunk

rustle


shut

DID I WAKE YOU?
NEELAM...
IS IT MORNING NOW? OR NIGHT...?
HOW LONG WAS I ASLEEP...?
Si——ii…
MARIKO, COULD YOU SPEAK IN FRENCH?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING
OH.
It was Japanese!

I'LL CHANGE YOUR BANDAGE
ARE YOU GOING TO WASH THE WOUND?
NO, THE WOUND SHOULDN'T BE EXPOSED TO THE AIR AFTER THE TREATMENT
YOU MIGHT NOT REMEMBER WELL, BUT YOU HAD 10 STITCHES
AS SOON AS YOU ARRIVED AT THIS HOTEL THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY
WE HAD A TALK... AND YOU SLEPT FOR TWO WHOLE DAYS
YOU HAVE A HIGH FEVER, SO I'LL PUT AN ICE PACK
TELL ME IF IT'S UNCOMFORTABLE
HOW IS IT?
IT'S ALL RIGHT
NEE-LAM
WHAT WOULD A BULLET WOUND BE LIKE?

I'M SOR...
YOU'RE FINE
BOTH YOUR PULSE AND BLOOD PRESSURE ARE NORMAL. IT SHOULDN'T LEAVE A SCAR
DOCTOR
THE BULLET ONLY GLANCED OFF YOUR SHOULDER
A DOCTOR

THERE WASN'T MUCH BLEEDING
IT MUST BE BECAUSE THE FIRST-AID WAS DONE RIGHT
JUST WHAT YOU'D EXPECT, YOUR HIGHNESS
HOW LIGHT-HANDED
YOU'LL GET BETTER SOON,
ADORABLE MISS SHORTY
sigh
BUT, WELL
THERE MIGHT BE A SMALL SCAR LEFT
POOR THING...

I see...
That's why, earlier...
NEELAM, THAT DOCTER CALLED YOU "YOUR HIGHNESS", DIDN'T HE?
HIS FATHER IS ONE OF THE DOCTORS IN MY COURT...
HE'S ALSO SKILLED
.....
MARIKO!
OUCH!

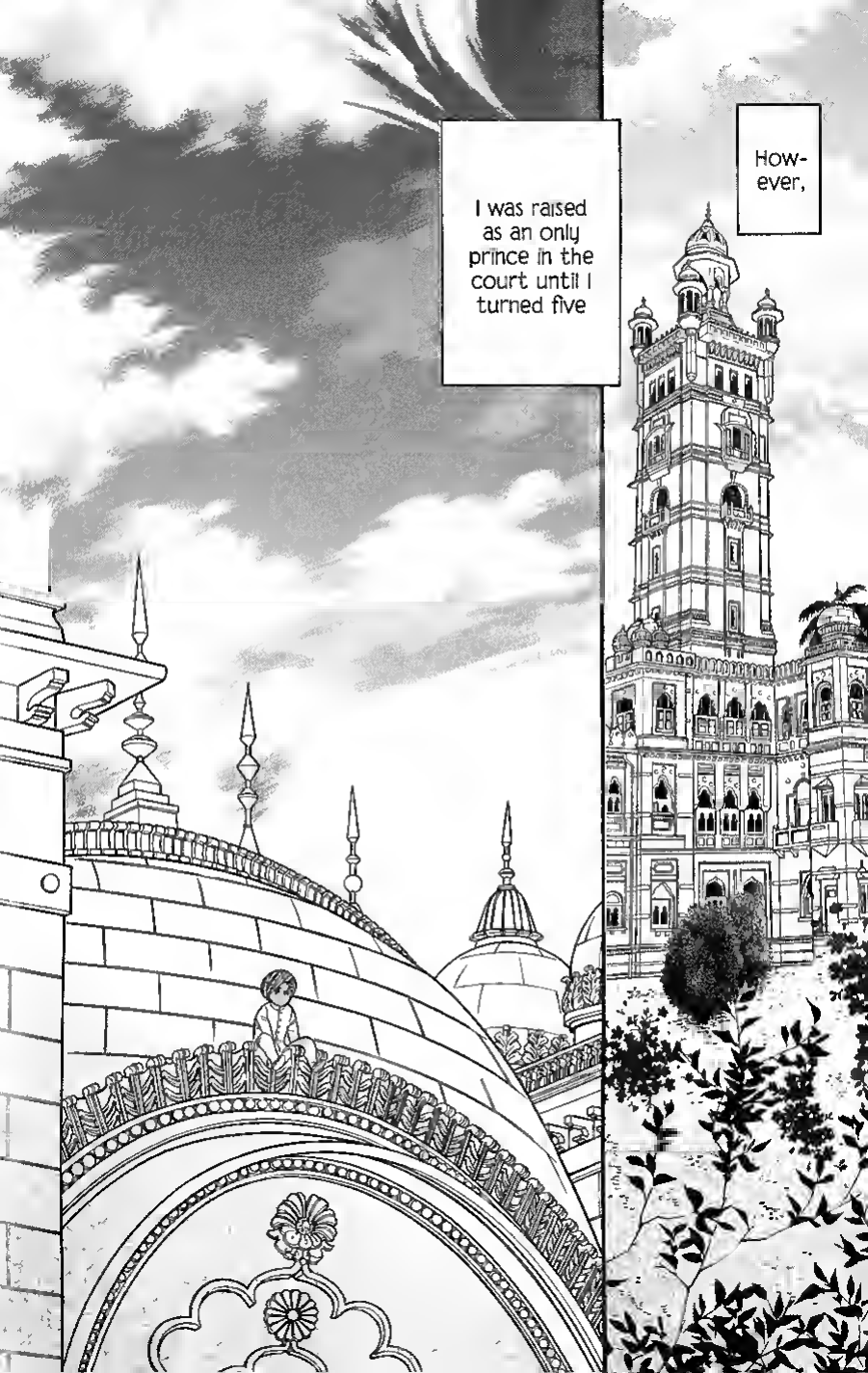
DOES IT HURT?
MARI-KO
MARI-KO, I'M SORRY ...!
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN ATONE FOR IT
FOR WOUNDING A WOMAN'S BODY
pff
MA
RI... KO...?
Why do you laugh?
DID YOU LOSE YOUR MIND?

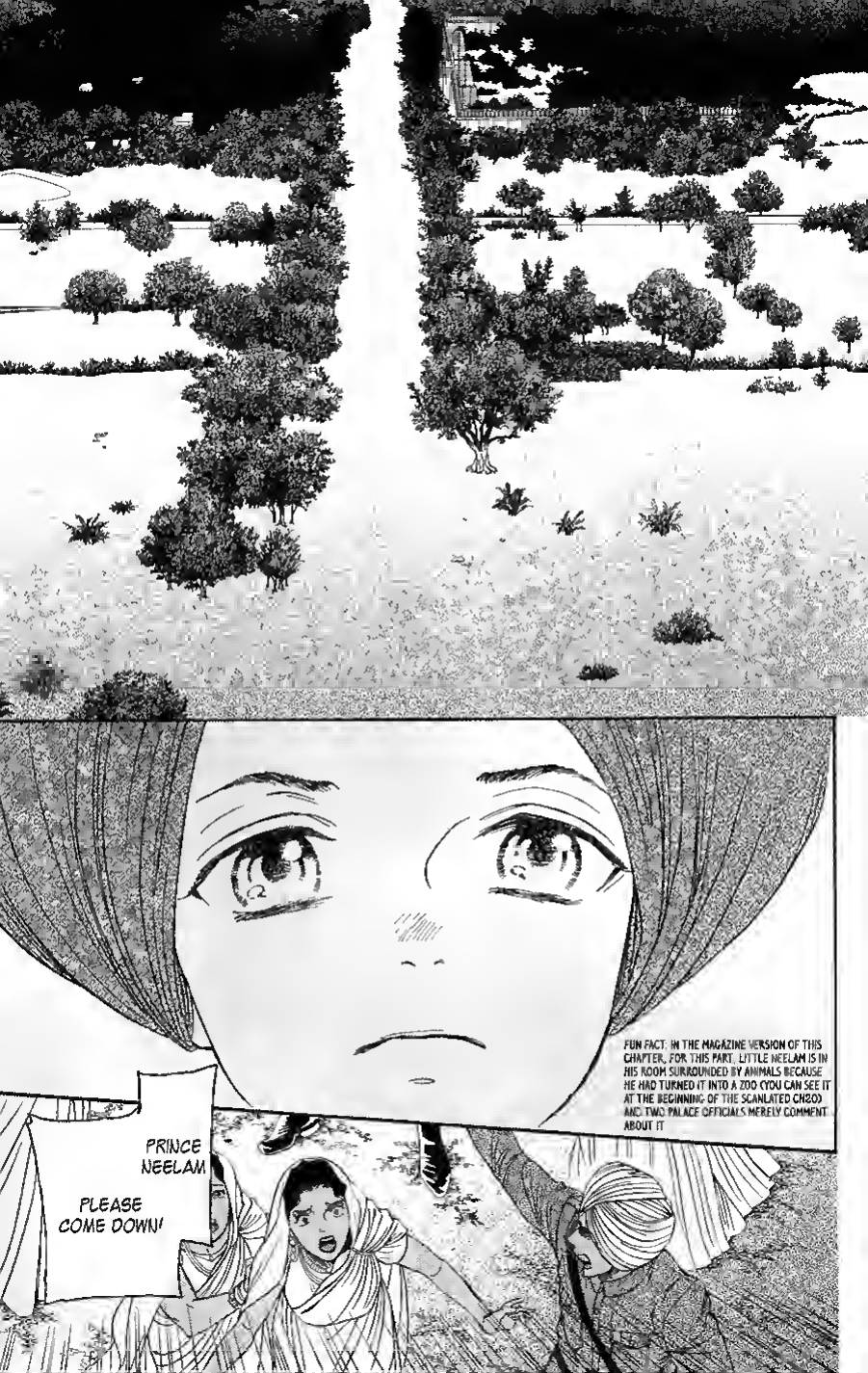
THAT KIND OF
ATTI-TUDE OF YOURS...
MAKES ME FEEL A BIT BETTER
...LIKE THAT,
YOU
ALWAYS
ACT STRONG FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS

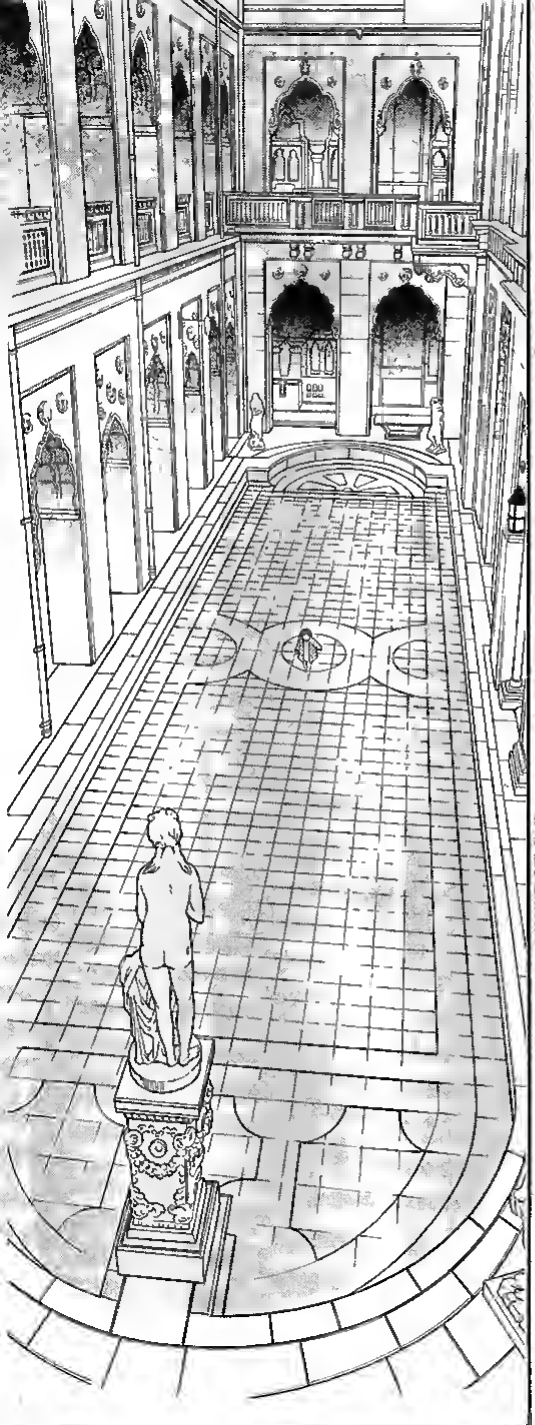
CHOCOLAT
CHO-
COLAT,
OR
BIJOUX
EVEN ROSES
THAT DON'T
BLOOM IN
WINTER
I'LL BRING
ANYTHING
FOR YOU,
MARIKO
WOW
THEN,
TELL ME
ABOUT
YOU AND
YOUR
BROTH-
ER
sigh

OKAY
THEN,
I'LL TELL YOU AS IT COMES TO MIND
I WAS BORN IN BEJARAT*, WEST INDIA
A PRINCELY STATE FACING THE OCEAN
MY FATHER, AS A KING,
HAD SEVEN QUEENS
HUH...
THE SON OF THE FIRST QUEEN IS THE FIRST PRINCE, PADMA
THE SON OF THE SECOND QUEEN IS THE SECOND PRINCE, WHICH IS MYSELF

*NOTE THE NAME BEJARAT IS MOST LIKELY MADE UP BY THE AUTHOR AND IS BASED ON THE REAL GUJARAT WHICH IS LOCATED ON THE WEST COAST OF INDIA. THE GUJARAT STATE WAS CREATED IN 1960 AND THIS MANGA IS SET BEFORE THAT TIME.


I was raised as an only prince in the court until I turned five
How-ever,


FUN FACT: IN THE MAGAZINE VERSION OF THIS CHAPTER, FOR THIS PART, LITTLE NEELAM IS IN HIS ROOM SURROUNDED BY ANIMALS BECAUSE HE HAD TURNED IT INTO A ZOO (YOU CAN SEE IT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SCANLATED CH20) AND TWO PALACE OFFICIALS MERELY COMMENT ABOUT IT
PRINCE NEELAM
PLEASE COME DOWN!



Not a single person reproached me other than my parents

Any older half-sisters of marriage-able age or younger half-sisters still in infancy

are not supposed to appear in front of men who were not their relatives.

So, as is the custom, they rarely came out of "Purdah"

There was nobody I could talk to on equal footing

It should be the first time for you to exchange words
What did my mother say just now?
Maya
I found no excitement in everyday life
In the first queen's birthplace as she wished.
During that time. Padma had been raised
So it was pretty exciting for me that I was "going to have" a brother.
The oldest son, his highness Padma will return to the court after the next birthday party
spend time with my one and only "brother"
I wondered how I could
He looked kind,
I watched him a few times from afar

Happy birthday!
I chose this gift with my mother
I offer it to you big brother!
THUMP
FWOOSH

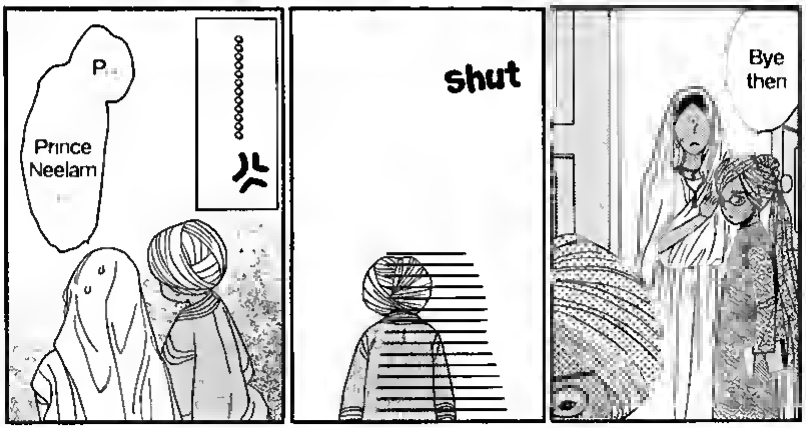
Neelam, five years old
Get him out
Padma, 11 years old
... I HATE HIM!
My
He must have had his reasons
MOTHER!
Earlier, Prince Neelam said "with my mother" when he handed the gift to Prince Padma
Don't!

His reason was revealed right away
Prince Padma's mother... the first queen Krishna never accepts any gifts from other queens.
Why?
It was my fault that I forgot to make sure you keep quiet about it
What a silly reason, I thought.
... But I didn't know anything then
"If that's the case, what gifts would I be able to make him accept?"
I even felt thrilled about the strange kind of rivalry.

Wh...
What're you doing in my room...?
The maid should leave
Hm ...?
OPEN IT.
intence
ずっ
wha...
stomp
つかつか
You, shut up and open your mouth
girl
toss

CH...
CHOCO-
LATE...
.....
Did he mean to apolo-gize?
Neelam... was it?

You... That much vulnerability can kill you in a heartbeat


P...
Prince Neelam...
shut
Bye then

Even if he's my elder brother...
I think it's difficult for your mother to talk about it, but...
Well...
What!?
When Prince Padma was born,
He received a lot of gifts from other queens, and a poisonous snake was hidden in one of them
He almost died from the snake bite
Even if he is...
So what?

オ
オ
Yeah,
that's Padma
H-He's got it, fath-er!
He's such a calm child
skilled in shooting as well

Peek
My...
This many books in many different lan-guages...
What lan-guage?
I can't read it

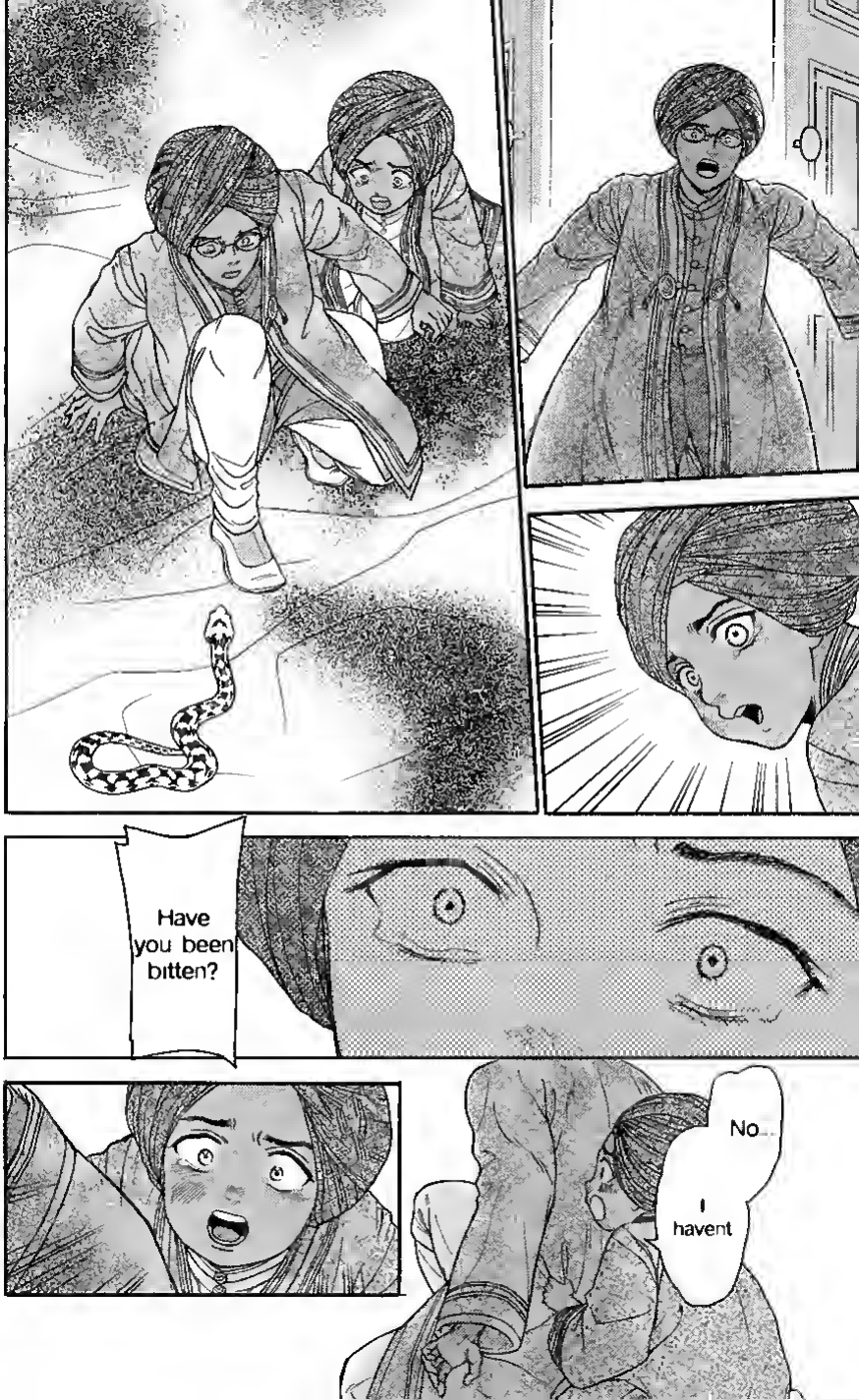
broth-
er...
restless
IT'S
A
SNAKE!
ha
ha
just
kidding.
It was
pay-
back...
flinch
agh
Wha
Padma!
!
agh!
flinch
Oh no!
Somebody-

SMACK
THUD
I was really looking forward to it

Wondering how I could spend time with my one and only brother....
Whomp
HE'S NOT GENTLE AT ALL!
I HATE HIM!
As much as my excitement.

.....?
rustle
my heart withered...
EEK

Neelam, is something wrong?
Ah...
Padma
snake
GASP
Prince Padma was almost killed being bitten by a poisonous snake...
You fool.
There's no way he'd help me.
BANG


Have you been bitten?
No... I havent

Stay behind me
and don't move!
grab
hiss

N..
Now!
Run!
me-
body
Some-
body
Some-
body!
Help
Help my
brother!

phew
IT WAS ONLY A BITE THIS TIME
SO IT WASN'T POISONOUS
...FORTUNATELY,
Brother
HE'S SUCH A NICE PERSON
Brother
I'm sorry, brother
I'm sorry
Brother

SO YOU CAME TO LIKE HIM.
nod
EXCELLED AT MARTIAL ARTS, SMART,
CARED FOR HIS MOTHER
DESPITE HIS FEAR
HE HAD AN INNER FORTITUDE
...NEVER A KIND OF MAN WHO WALLOWS IN OPIUM

I WAS JUST THINKING
HOW I AM DESTINED TO BE CLOSE TO DEATH
PRINCE PADMA
SEEING ME BITTEN BY A POISONOUS SNAKE
MY MOTHER SUSPECTED THE OTHER QUEENS OF FEELING JEALOUS OF HER FOR HAVING THE CROWN PRINCE

I GREW UP HEARING IT FOR 12 YEARS
EVEN SO,
WHEN I SAW THOSE TRUTHFUL EYES OF HIS
IT WAS EVEN MORE DIFFICULT
NOT TO PROTECT HIM.
BUT IT DIDN'T GO LIKE THAT FOR KRISHNA,
WHO WAS WAPPED UP IN SUSPICION